

Application No. 09/324,249
Amendment date: September 13, 2004
Reply to Office Action of June 15, 2004

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

- Claim 1.** (previously presented): A wireless digital camera apparatus, comprising:
- a digital camera including at least a processor, a user interface, and a memory; an RF communications device connected to said processor;
 - a remote server address stored in said memory; and
 - processor control means for
 - a) establishing a persistent link between said RF communications device and an external network when the apparatus is first activated and thereafter whenever the processor detects that the external network is not available; and
 - b) in response to a signal from said user interface, 1) capturing a digital image, 2) formatting a message including at least one said digital image, and 3) transmitting each said message to said remote server via said external network.
- Claim 2.** (previously presented): Apparatus of claim 1, wherein said memory further includes at least one previously defined recipient code, said user interface further comprises means for selecting a recipient code from said memory, and said message further includes said recipient code.
- Claim 3.** (previously presented): Apparatus of claim 1, wherein said user interface further comprises means for entering a recipient address, and said message further includes said recipient address.

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- Claim 4.** (previously presented): Apparatus of claim 3, wherein said means for entering a recipient address comprises a microphone and voice recognition module.
- Claim 5.** (previously presented): Apparatus of claim 1, wherein said user interface further comprises means for selecting a classification for said digital image, and said message further includes said classification.
- Claim 6.** (previously presented): Apparatus of claim 1, wherein said user interface further comprises means for creating a digital audio recording, and said message further includes said digital audio recording.
- Claim 7.** (Canceled):
- Claim 8.** (previously presented): Apparatus of claim 1, wherein said memory further includes a user identifier, and wherein said message further includes said user identifier.
- Claim 9.** (Currently amended): A wireless digital apparatus, comprising:
a processor; a memory connected to said processor that contains at least a previously established configuration table and an address associated with a remote server;
user interface means connected to said processor for at least displaying a list of recipient codes stored in said configuration table and receiving signals indicating user selection of at least one recipient code from the displayed list;
an RF communications device connected to said processor; and
processor control means, responsive to signals received from said user interface means, for transmitting one or more messages including at least said one recipient code to said remote server via said RF communications device.

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Claim 10. (Currently amended): Digital aApparatus of Claim 9, further comprising a digital camera connected to said processor, and where each message further includes at least one digital image captured by said digital camera.

Claim 11. (Currently amended): Digital photo delivery system comprising:
at least one wireless digital camera apparatus, wherein each said apparatus includes a processor, a memory, and a destination address and one or more previously defined recipient codes stored in said memory; user interface means connected to said processor for at least displaying one or more said recipient codes and receiving signals indicating user selection of a displayed recipient code; a digital camera means connected to said processor for capturing one or more digital images in response to signals from said user interface means; a RF communications device connected to said processor; and processor control means, responsive to signals received from said user interface means, for transmitting a message, including at least said selected recipient code and one said digital image, to said destination address via said RF communications device; and
a server associated with said destination address and responsive to messages received at said destination address from each said wireless digital camera apparatus; server memory means ~~for~~ storing account configuration data including recipient code data; server communications means; and server control means for parsing said recipient code from each said message and processing each said message according to said account configuration data associated with said recipient code.

Claim 12. (canceled)

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Claim 13. (previously presented): Digital apparatus of claim 9, wherein said RF communications device comprises a wireless packet data transceiver.

Claim 14. (previously presented): Digital apparatus of claim 9, wherein said RF communications device comprises a modem capable of establishing a connection to an external network according to at least two protocols, and selects an appropriate protocol depending on external network availability.

Claim 15. (previously presented): Digital photo delivery system of claim 11, wherein said server control means further comprises message reply filter means for receiving messages addressed to said wireless digital camera apparatus and only forwarding to said wireless digital camera apparatus those messages which originate from an address that is authorized for a reply in said account configuration record associated with said wireless digital camera apparatus.

Claim 16. (Currently amended): A method in a data processing system for transmitting a message to a remote system associated with a predetermined address, comprising:
establishing a connection with a wireless external network;
displaying on a user interface component of the data processing system, one or more predefined recipient codes;
receiving user input indicating selection of at least one displayed recipient code;
formatting a message, including at least one selected recipient code; and
transmitting said message via said wireless network to said remote system.

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Claim 17. (previously presented) Method of claim 16, further comprising the step of obtaining a digital image from a digital camera, and where said step of formatting a message further comprises including said digital image in said message.

Claim 18. (Currently amended): In a wireless device that includes an RF communications device, a memory containing an address associated with a remote server, a processor, and user interface means, a method for updating ~~user data on the wireless device~~ with user data ~~modified on the server~~, comprising:
establishing a communication link between the wireless device and the server via the RF communications device; and
transmitting said user data from the server to the wireless device.

Claim 19. (Currently amended): The ~~wireless device~~method of Claim 18, wherein said user data comprises at least message classification codes.

Claim 20. (Currently amended): The ~~wireless device~~method of Claim 18, wherein said user data comprises at least a list of recipient codes.

Claim 21. (previously presented): A method for archiving and distributing digital images using a digital apparatus with wireless packet data network access and image capture capabilities, comprising:
capturing digital images with the digital apparatus;
transmitting a message including at least one digital image and at least one code to a predefined remote server;
parsing the message at the server and processing each image according to each code.

Claim 22. (Canceled)

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Claim 23. (Currently amended): Method of Claim 21, wherein processing the images further comprises:

selecting at least one set of recipients corresponding to ~~at least one~~said code to whom said at least one image is to be sent, each set including at least one recipient; and
sending a message including said at least one image to ~~the at least one~~each selected set of recipients.

Claim 24. (previously presented): Method of Claim 21, wherein said message further includes at least an account identifier.

Claim 25. (previously presented): A method for archiving and distributing digital images using a digital apparatus with wireless packet data network access and image capture capability, comprising the steps of:
capturing a digital image file and saving it in the apparatus memory with a file name including at least one code;
transmitting said digital image file to a predefined remote server;
parsing the file name at the server and processing the images according to each said code.

Claim 26. (previously presented): Method of Claim 25, wherein said file name further includes an account identifier.

Claim 27. (previously presented): A wireless digital camera apparatus, comprising:
a digital camera including at least a processor, a user interface, and a memory;
an RF communications device connected to said processor;
a remote server address stored in said memory; and
processor control means for:

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- a) establishing a persistent link between said RF communications device and an external network when the apparatus is first activated and thereafter whenever the processor detects that the external network is not available, and
- b) in response to a signal from said user interface,
 - 1) capturing a digital image,
 - 2) saving said image in said memory with a file name including at least one predefined code, and
 - 3) transmitting said image file to said remote server via said external network.

Claim 28. (previously presented): A method in a wireless digital camera apparatus including at least a processor connected to an RF communications device, a user interface, and a memory including the address of a remote server, comprising:

- a) establishing a link between said RF communications device and an external communication network when the apparatus is first activated and thereafter whenever the processor detects that the link is not available, and
- b) in response to a signal from said user interface,
 - 1) capturing a digital image,
 - 2) formatting a message including at least said digital image, and
 - 3) transmitting each said message to said remote server via said external network.

Claim 29. (previously presented): A method in a wireless digital camera apparatus including at least a processor connected to an RF communications device, a user interface, and a memory, comprising the steps of:

- a) displaying on the user interface representations of one or more recipients to whom one or more images are to be distributed;

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- b) receiving a first user input indicating selection of a representation displayed on the user interface;
- c) selecting address data, corresponding to the representation indicated by the first user input, from a configuration table in said memory; and
- d) in response to each second user input from the user interface,
 - 1) capturing a digital image, and
 - 2) formatting a message including at least said image, and
 - 3) transmitting said message via said RF communications device to a remote system associated with said address data.

Claim 30. (Currently amended): A method in a data processing system for processing a digital image at a location remotely located from the image capture location, comprising:

- a) receiving a digital image from a digital camera; and
- b) in response to receiving each digital image, automatically performing the steps of (1) formatting a message, including at least said digital image and a preselected code, and (2) transmitting said message to a remote server associated with a predetermined destination address, and
- c) processing each said message on said remote ~~system-server~~ server according to data that is associated on said remote ~~system-server~~ server with the code in said message.

Claim 31. (previously presented): Method of Claim 30, wherein said processing further including parsing the image from said message and printing the image at a location associated with the code.

Claim 32. (previously presented): A method for initializing a rental device with user preference data, comprising:
establishing a user id and associated user preference data on a server;
associating said rental device with said user preference data; and

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updating said rental device with at least some of said user preference data.

Claim 33. (previously presented) A digital camera comprising:

a mechanism for forming one or more Images; and
a distribution mechanism configured to distribute the one or more images from the digital camera to another location by:
displaying on a user interface component of the digital camera,
graphics representations of one or more recipients to whom one or more images are to be distributed;
receiving user input indicating selection of a graphic representation displayed on the user interface;
storing, in the digital camera, data corresponding to the graphic representation indicated by the user input;
distributing the data, with the next image formed by the digital camera, to a networked computing device.

Claim 34. (previously presented) A system for distributing data comprising:

at least one device designed to operate according to configuration data defined by a user;
a user interface coupled to at least one server system via a network wherein said user interface is physically separable from said at least one device and configured to obtain said configuration data from said user and provide said configuration data to said at least one server system;
said at least one server system coupled to said at least one device via said network, wherein said at least one server system is configured to relay said configuration data to said at least one device when said at least one device issues a request for said configuration data.

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Claim 35. (previously presented): Method of Claim 16, wherein the connection is established according to a wireless packet data protocol.

Claim 36. (New): Digital photo delivery system comprising:
at least one wireless digital camera apparatus, wherein each said apparatus includes a processor, a memory, and a destination address and one or more previously defined recipient codes stored in said memory; user interface connected to said processor for at least displaying one or more said recipient codes and receiving signals indicating user selection of a displayed recipient code; a digital camera connected to said processor for capturing one or more digital images in response to signals from said user interface; a RF communications device connected to said processor; and processor control means, responsive to signals received from said user interface, for transmitting a message, including at least said selected recipient code and one said digital image, to said destination address via said RF communications device; and
a server associated with said destination address and responsive to messages received at said destination address from each said wireless digital camera apparatus; server memory storing account configuration data including recipient code data; server communications means; and server control means for parsing said recipient code from each said message and processing each said message according to said account configuration data associated with said recipient code, and for transmitting account configuration data including at least one recipient code to at least one said wireless digital camera apparatus; and
wherein said processor control means of each said wireless digital camera apparatus is responsive to receiving account configuration data transmitted from said server to update said memory of said wireless digital camera apparatus with at least a portion of said account configuration data.

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Claim 37. (New): A method for archiving and distributing digital images using a digital apparatus with wireless packet data network access and image capture capabilities, comprising:
capturing digital images with the digital apparatus;
transmitting a message including at least one digital image and at least one code to a predefined remote server;
parsing the message at the server and processing each image according to each code, by at least
selecting at least one set of recipients corresponding to said code, to whom said at least one image is to be sent, each set including at least one recipient; and
sending a message to each selected set of recipients with instructions for accessing said at least one image.